Property amassed by Churches

†2210. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chairman of the Indian Institute for Christian Studies had stated in a conference in Ernakulam on 16-17 May, 2007 that there is no rule to monitor how much property has been amassed by the Churches in the country;

(b) whether the constitutional provisions ensuring protection to language and culture are being misused by some groups;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) whether any inquiry would be conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discrimination against minorities

2211. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal to frame a concrete programme to address the discrimination being faced by minorities, especially muslims;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps Government have taken for the welfare of muslims during the last three years in the each State?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) After considering the report of the Sachar Committee, it has been decided to accept in principle its recommendation regarding setting up an Equal Opportunity Commission for looking into the grievances of deprived groups regarding discrimination.

(c) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities announced in June, 2006 has been specifically designed for the welfare of minorities. Besides this, a number of schemes exclusively for minorities have been envisaged, namely a merit-cum-means scholarship scheme for technical and professional courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels and a coaching and allied scheme for students belonging to minority communities.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.